

**September 28-30, 2013**

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

**Detroit Free Press: Supreme Court restores convictions in Saginaw case**

"The Michigan Supreme Court has reinstated several convictions against a man who claimed his rights were violated when a Saginaw County judge required him to wear leg shackles if he wanted to act as his own lawyer. Charles Arthur's attempted murder conviction and other crimes had been thrown out by the appeals court. The issue boiled down to whether it was proper for a judge to require shackles."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Associated Press: Supreme Court restores convictions in Saginaw case**

[Full story](#)

**Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Midland Daily News and other media outlets.**

**The Detroit News: Some Michigan courts OK for a while under shutdown**

"Federal courthouses in Michigan likely would keep the doors open for a while even if a budget impasse forces a government shutdown. In eastern Michigan, court spokesman Rod Hansen says it would be 'pretty much business as usual' for approximately 10 days.... There are federal courts in Bay City, Detroit, Flint, Port Huron, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Kalamazoo and Marquette."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Detroit Free Press: Federal courts in Michigan OK for a while if government shuts down**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Judge Damon Keith, Mitch Albom to launch books, celebrate racial harmony at Fox Theatre event**

"A legendary Detroit judge will share stories from his life at a star-studded Fox Theatre event celebrating the launch of two new books.... [Mitch] Albom and U.S. 6th Circuit Appeals Judge Damon Keith are hosting the Nov. 11 event, at which Albom will launch his 12th book, 'The First Phone Call from Heaven.' Keith's biography, 'Crusader for Justice,' also comes out in November."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Raw Data: Michigan felons more likely to do time**

"More felony sentences in Michigan are resulting in jail or prison time. In 2012, 76% of felony sentences led to time behind bars, compared to 70% in 2008. The figures are part of an analysis by the Council of State Governments to the Michigan Law Revision Commission, which recommend changes to the state's sentencing guidelines."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Legal News: Michigan Court of Appeals named leader in automation of court business procedures**

"Strong management, sophisticated business practices, and intelligent use of information technology were among the reasons the Michigan Court of Appeals was a standout in a study by the National Center for State Courts. The Michigan Court of Appeals was one of three courts nationwide selected to be part of the study."

[Full story](#)

### **The Daily News/Greenville: Board of Commissioners OKs purchase of new courtroom sound system**

"The Montcalm County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday [September 23] to allow the purchase of a new sound system for the Montcalm Juvenile/Probate Courtroom. Judge Charles Simon approached the commissioners Monday and said the current system is no longer effective after having been in use for more than 10 years."

[Full story](#)

### **The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Former Berrien Judge Wilbur Schillinger dies at 79; Led Probate Court at a time of rising juvenile crime**

"Friends and colleagues are remembering former Berrien County Probate Court Judge Wilbur Schillinger as tough and fair jurist who steered changes in the court system. Schillinger, who retired in 1994, died last week at 79 at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph. The Benton Harbor High School graduate served in the Berrien County Prosecutor's Office before Gov. William Milliken appointed him Probate Judge in 1980."

[Full story](#)

### **Ionia Sentinel-Standard: Obituary: Retired Judge James Kennedy Nichols**

"The Honorable James Kennedy Nichols, 89, of Ionia, passed away Sept. 26, 2013, in Grand Rapids.... [Judge Nichols] was a graduate of Ionia High School, Albion College, and Capital Law School. [He practiced law in the states of Ohio and Michigan and was a former Prosecuting Attorney for Morgan County (Ohio) and a Circuit Judge for Ionia and Montcalm Counties (Michigan).]"

[Full story](#)

### **Ionia Sentinel-Standard: Ionia County commissioners choose old jail site for facility expansion**

"The Ionia County Board of Commissioners has selected the former jail, next to the county's Court House, as the site of a new county facility to provide additional office space and enable the relocation of Friend of the Court operations into a secure environment. The board met Tuesday [September 24] at the Belrockton Community Center."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Lansing State Journal: Proposed 2014 Ionia County budget similar to 2013**

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: City of Jackson to pay county \$120,418, the amount spent on fighting stormwater lawsuit**

"It wasn't what they asked for, but Jackson County officials are satisfied with the outcome. A Michigan Court of Appeals judge ordered the city of Jackson to pay Jackson County \$120,418 - the exact amount the county spent battling the legality of the city's stormwater 'fee' that was ruled an illegal tax."

[Full story](#)

### **Lansing State Journal: Schlegel to run for 65A District Court judge seat**

"Clinton County attorney Shannon Schlegel has announced her candidacy for judge of the 65A District Court in Clinton County.... The judge position for the 65A District Court was slated to be eliminated on Jan. 1, 2015, with the Clinton County Probate Court judge also serving as judge for the 65A District Court. However, Public Act 33 of 2013 restored the position."

[Full story](#)

### **Lansing State Journal: CASA plans Superhero 5K Run and Kids Fun Run**

"CASA for Kids, Inc. is hosting the second annual CASA Superhero 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run on Saturday, Oct. 19 at First Ward Park by Hastings Manufacturing at 325 N. Hanover St., Hastings.... The run supports CASA's mission to provide volunteer advocates for children in foster care."

[Full story](#)

### **Lansing State Journal: Charles Toy: Rule change on judicial campaigns would serve voters**

Thomas Cooley Law School Associate Dean Charles Toy writes "The State Bar of Michigan has asked Secretary of State Ruth Johnson to reconsider a 2004 interpretation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act and require the public disclosure of funding sources for judicial campaigns (LSJ, Sept. 13)."

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Appointments announced by state Supreme Court**

"The Michigan Supreme Court has announced the following appointments to the Attorney Discipline Board and the Attorney Grievance Commission.... The ADB consists of six attorneys and three non-attorneys appointed by the Supreme Court; appointees serve on a volunteer basis.... The nine members of the AGC also serve on a voluntary basis."

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: Bumper sticker fraud may be misdemeanor no more**

"Did you know it was a misdemeanor to have a bumper sticker of an organization that you didn't belong to? ... Well, State Rep. Tom Leonard, R-DeWitt Township, has introduced HB 4930 — which passed the House — to repeal the 1929 law. The Senate is expected to pass it as well. Truth be told, the Court of Appeals declared it unconstitutional in 1979 for obvious free speech infringement, but a spokesman in Leonard's office told MiLW that he wanted to sweep it off the books — just in case the Michigan Supreme Court got any ideas."

[Full story](#)

### **The Midland Daily News: Midland County Judge Hart announces retirement**

"A Midland County district court judge has announced his retirement, citing upcoming surgeries and medical leave due to cancer. Judge John H. Hart tendered his resignation effective 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31, 2013, in a brief Sept. 27 letter to the State Court Administrator's Office."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon Chronicle: Prominent Muskegon attorney faces discipline over thousands kept from former firm**

"Shawn P. Davis, a prominent Muskegon criminal-defense and divorce attorney, faces possible disbarment for misappropriating thousands of dollars from the law firm for which he used to work. The conduct, which Davis has admitted, lasted at least from 2007 until his partners confronted him and terminated him from Nolan & Nolan & Shafer PLC in August 2011."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon Chronicle: More government a good idea when it comes to public defenders, Steve Gunn tells MLive and Muskegon Chronicle readers**

"Muskegon County is in the process of setting up a public defender department. Until now the caseload of indigent defendants had been handled through contracts with private attorneys. The new department will move these cases 'in-house.' Columnist Steve Gunn, generally opposed to big government thinks the plan is a good move."

[Full story](#)

### **The News-Herald/Southgate: POLI-TICKER: Circuit court changes jury selection process**

"Third Circuit Court, which handles criminal, civil and family cases in Wayne County, is changing its selection process in hopes of streamlining the process and making juries more representative of the county's population.... Unlike the current system, the summons also will include a specific date for prospective jurors to appear. Right now, jurors are given a summons date after they've returned the questionnaire."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Michigan appeals court allows hit man to testify**

"A convicted hit man will have the opportunity to testify and possibly clear a young man in a quadruple-killing at a Detroit drug house. That is the decision of the Michigan appeals court, which says in a ruling dated last Thursday and released last Friday that Vincent Smothers has the right to testify in the case of Davontae Sanford, who's in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree murder."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Midland Daily News: Michigan appeals court allows hit man to testify**

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Seminar offered by Probate Court**

"On Friday, Oct. 11, the Citizens Alliance for the Oakland County Probate and Circuit Courts will conduct a free seminar titled 'Removing the Mysteries of Probate Court' at the Royal Oak Senior Center in Royal Oak from 1 to 3 p.m."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Drug Court graduation**

"On Tuesday, Sept. 17, the Oakland County Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) conducted its 40th graduation since its inception in June of 2001. The 127th through the 131st graduates were honored with a ceremony and reception held in courtroom of Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Mary Ellen Brennan."

[Full story](#)

### **The Times Herald/Port Huron: Father wins appeal on 1st-degree child abuse**

"A 36-year-old Sanilac County man is not guilty of first-degree child abuse in a 2011 case where he taped his 3-year-old son's hands together and placed urine-soaked pants on his head, according to a ruling issued by the Michigan Court of Appeals."

[Full story](#)

**\*\* This article is available by subscription only.**

### **The Times Herald/Port Huron: Judge rules in favor of inmates in parole ban**

"Amy Nowak was 17 years old when she played a role in the killing of a Port Huron man. After serving 20 years of a life sentence in prison on charges of second-degree murder, kidnapping and armed robbery, she was paroled in December 2008."

[Full story](#)

**\*\* This article is available by subscription only.**